

In the Claims

Please add Claims 8-12 as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A character input apparatus comprising:
an operation unit;
a support that supports the operation unit so as to be inclinable;
a first detection unit that generates a different signal corresponding to an inclination direction of the operation unit;
a second detection unit that generates a signal based on a motion when the operation unit is moved in a direction different from the inclination direction; and
a control unit that selects character data from among N data groups based on detected output from the first detection unit when the operation unit is inclined and that finalizes data selected based on detected output from the second detection unit when the operation unit is operated in the direction different from the inclination direction.
2. (Previously Presented) The character input apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the support is provided with two rotational shafts that are rotated when the operation unit is inclined and two rotation detection means for detecting a rotation magnitude of each rotation shaft, the two rotation detection means constitute the first detection unit, and the detected output is obtained from the second detection unit when the operation unit is moved in a direction perpendicular to the rotational shafts.
3. (Original) The character input apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control unit selects the data successively based on the output change of the first detection unit when the inclination direction of the operation unit is changed while the inclination of the operation unit that is inclined in a desired direction is being maintained.
4. (Original) The character input apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the N data groups include 26 alphabetical characters A, B, C, ..., Z.

5. (Previously Presented) The character input apparatus according to claim 4, wherein a conversion means for converting input data of alphabetical character to kana characters is provided additionally.

6. (Previously Presented) The character input apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when the control unit selects the data and the selected data is displayed on a display unit, the control unit generates the display data so that not only the data selected based on the inclination direction of the operation unit but also one data positioned adjacent to the selected data is displayed simultaneously on the display unit.

7. (Previously Presented) The character input apparatus according to claim 4, wherein a second conversion means for converting the kana characters to kanji characters is provided additionally.

8. (New) The character input apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the signal generated by the first detection unit corresponds solely to the inclination direction of the operation unit so long as the operation unit has been inclined by a minimum amount from a center position of the operation unit.

9. (New) The character input apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each particular angular range uniquely and permanently defines a particular character data.

10. (New) The character input apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the character data selected corresponds solely to the inclination direction of the operation unit so long as the operation unit has been inclined by a minimum amount from a center position of the operation unit.

11. (New) The character input apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the character data is provided on a periphery of the operation unit and corresponds to the character data selected when the operation unit is inclined.

12. (New) The character input apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the character data is provided on the entire periphery of the operation unit.